

**July 10, 2013**

*The National Security Working Group (NSWG) provides wide-spectrum coverage of issues like the Iranian threat, missile defense, sequestration, New START, events in Syria and more. We look forward to providing this newsletter to RSC members and welcome your input throughout the 113th Congress.*

### **Egyptian people stand against oppressive dictatorship (Rep. Franks)**

The Muslim Brotherhood's preferred choice to lead Egypt, Mohamed Morsi, openly sought, over the past year, to permanently enshrine his own dictatorial arrogance and blatant disregard for the equal citizenship rights of the Egyptian people in the nation's new constitution. His 'leadership' of Egypt has been largely marked by his attempts to forcibly consolidate power for himself and the Muslim Brotherhood. Among the Morsi Regime's efforts was the systematic removal of religious freedom, a burden especially felt by Egypt's religious minorities.

The Egyptian people have again made clear that they have for too long toiled under oppressive dictatorships and will continue to protest until they have at long last laid hold of their self-evident, fundamental rights.

Just three short weeks before deposed Egyptian President Mohamed Morsi was removed from power, Egyptian courts sentenced 43 staff members of pro-democracy non-governmental organizations (NGOs), including 16 Americans, to prison terms of up to five years for their activities to support civil society and democracy after Egypt's 2011 revolution. The Morsi government not only continued the prosecutions after coming to power in June 2012 but also drafted a law that will impose tighter restrictions on NGOs and suffocate Egypt's civil society. The trial and harsh sentences underscore the fact that a Muslim Brotherhood-dominated government will continue to limit the freedoms of millions of Egyptians including secular opponents, other Muslims and Coptic Christians.



***Above: A Morsi supporter holds the Quran. Today, Egypt's prosecutor ordered the arrest Muslim Brotherhood leaders, charging them with inciting violence in a clash that saw troops shoot 55 Morsi supporters dead.***

Now is the time for Congress to consider what changes in assistance policy might be necessary to initiate the best social and political leverage in this strategically important country.

Though it is impossible to predict what will ultimately arise from the midst of the current turmoil, one thing is clear: at the very least, both the Egyptian military and the 20 million Egyptians who have poured into the streets to protest seem to understand, far better than the Obama Administration ever has, the dangers posed by the radical ideas the Muslim Brotherhood seeks to implement.

NSWG Contact: Ari Zimmerman, [Ari.Zimmerman@mail.house.gov](mailto:Ari.Zimmerman@mail.house.gov), 6-5536

### **Egypt's Military Coup and the Road Ahead (Rep. Tom Cotton)**

Last week, as Americans celebrated 237 years of independence and a functioning democracy, Egyptians took to the streets of Cairo and Tahrir Square to demand that their president, Mohamed Morsi resign. After days of protests and failed negotiations, the Egyptian military deposed President Morsi and suspended the constitution on July 3. There have been deeply-rooted problems with the Morsi government since he took office just over one year ago. Now is a very uncertain and precarious time for the country, especially in light of the post-coup violence that has, thus far, killed 26 and wounded over 800 in the last week.

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*Egypt's Military Coup and the Road Ahead (Rep. Cotton)*

One of the major failures of the Morsi government was the heavy slant towards the interests of the Muslim Brotherhood. The constitution was written by an Islamist-dominated assembly that pushed through a draft over the objections of its liberal, secular, and Christian members, many of whom resigned in protest.

The Obama Administration must now use the influence it has with the military leadership to express the importance of respecting the rights of all Egyptians and, moving forward, engage in genuine pluralistic negotiations that will lead to true reform—not simply a democratic election, but respect the rights of religion and gender and civic equality. If the Egyptian military and interim leaders do not heed this advice, they will be dooming themselves to the same failures as we saw under Hosni Mubarak and, now, under the Morsi government.

NSWG Contact: Elaine Wilson, [Elaine.wilson@mail.house.gov](mailto:Elaine.wilson@mail.house.gov), 5-3772

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*Each NSWG Item reflects the position and view of the authoring office. Questions or comments regarding the NSWG can be directed to:  
Joe Murray, [Joe.Murray@mail.house.gov](mailto:Joe.Murray@mail.house.gov) or 6-0678*